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**Testimony of RENEW Northeast before the  
Energy and Technology Committee in support of**

**Governor's Bill No. 10  
*An Act Concerning Climate Change Mitigation***

**Raised Bill No. 90  
*An Act Concerning Consultant and Procurement Authority for The Department of Energy and  
Environmental Protection.***

**February 24, 2022**

Chairmen Needleman and Arconti, Ranking Members Formica and Ferraro, and members of the Energy and Technology Committee, my name is Francis Pullaro. I am the Executive Director of RENEW Northeast (RENEW), an association uniting environmental advocates and developers and operators of the region's largest clean energy projects, which include small hydropower, offshore wind, land-based wind, solar and energy storage. RENEW's mission involves coordinating the ideas and resources of its members with the goal of increasing environmentally sustainable energy generation in New England from the region's abundant renewable energy resources.<sup>1</sup>

**RENEW endorses (1) Governor's Bill 10 setting a goal for a 100 percent carbon-free electricity sector in Connecticut by 2040 and (2) Raised Bill No. 90's giving the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("DEEP") the authority to direct electric distribution companies ("EDCs") to sign contracts with energy storage developers.**

RENEW offers its deep appreciation to this Committee, the entire General Assembly, and Governor Lamont for their leadership over the past several years to grow the green economy and keep Connecticut on a trajectory to meet its commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Governor has a laudable goal of accelerating reduction efforts by committing to procure 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2040. One way to strengthen the proposal in Governor's Bill 10 is to add a requirement that closes the gap left by municipal utilities' due to their exemption from Connecticut's Renewable Portfolio Standard ("RPS"). **RENEW urges this committee to add language to Governor's Bill No. 10 to extend the State's RPS goals to municipal utilities so that Connecticut can truly attain zero emissions in the electricity sector.**

RENEW supports the proposed changes to Public Act No. 21-53 that will give DEEP the authority to direct the EDCs to sign contracts as is provided in Connecticut's renewable energy procurement laws. Compelling parties to execute energy storage contracts will unlock the financing necessary to get storage projects built, allow Public Act No. 21-53's goals to be met, and deliver cost, reliability, and environmental benefits to Connecticut residents and businesses.

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<sup>1</sup> This testimony represents the views of RENEW and not necessarily those of any particular member of RENEW.

Public Act No. 21-53 established that the EDCs would enter into “agreements” for the sale of products purchased under long-term contracts with eligible facilities. RENEW recommends the bill be amended to allow DEEP to solicit proposals for a variety of agreement types and not just power purchase agreements as written in the bill, while also ensuring that “stored energy” is eligible. The variety of offtake revenue contracts for energy storage projects has expanded rapidly. For large or transmission-level resources, arrangements have taken the form of energy storage tolling agreements, capacity sales agreements and hybrid power purchase agreements. Therefore, **RENEW recommends two minor adjustments in line 35 of the bill by replacing “power purchase agreements” with “agreements” and by inserting after “energy” the words “stored energy.”**

In enacting Public Act No. 21-53, the Connecticut General Assembly set a goal of deploying 1,000 megawatts of energy storage capacity by the end of 2030 with interim targets of 300 megawatts by the end of 2024 and 650 megawatts by 2027. Large energy projects can have long lead-times for development due to permitting delays and the lengthy ISO New England interconnection process. **RENEW recommends that the General Assembly move to require DEEP to issue solicitations for energy storage on fixed deadlines that can help ensure the targets will be met on the schedule set by the General Assembly.** RENEW also recognizes that DEEP still retains considerable authority for the procurement of renewable energy that goes back almost ten years with the enactment of Public Act 13-303. Similarly, RENEW recommends the General Assembly create a timetable for DEEP to exercise its renewable energy procurement authority to ensure Connecticut’s requirements under the RPS and Global Warming Solutions Act will be met on schedule.

Stand-alone energy storage can provide substantial reliability benefits within dense population centers due to its relatively small footprint. It also provides on-demand electricity to the grid at peak times – something usually provided by fossil fuel generators. By accelerating the switch from fossil fuels to energy storage, Connecticut can reduce emissions, improve the environment, and attract new investment and jobs to the state at the same time.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.